



Merrily We Roll Along, p.12



Local author, p.6

Charlestowne North Tenants Meet With City Staff and Local Officials

by Erica Johns

Over 80 Charlestowne North tenants filled the Greenbelt Library auditorium on Saturday, January 13 to meet with city staff, city, county and state elected officials and community legal advisors. The apartment complex has been plagued with health, safety and security issues since an ownership change in January 2023 (see News Review issues for September 14, 2023, and January 11, 2024). Dozens of code violations and unaddressed citations have cost the property its rental license. Meeting topics included city code enforcement actions, pending court cases, engaging the Maryland Attorney General and pursuing receivership for the property. Tenants



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

A dramatic view of the eight-story building on a sunny day in January 2024

expressed frustration with deteriorated living conditions affecting their health, safety and well-being.

City Manager Josué Salmerón said the city's goal is to fix deficiencies and restore residents' quality of life. Legal activity and options include issuance

See **TENANTS**, page 7

The Impact of the 1950s Red Scare On Greenbelt: Chasanow and East

by James Giese

The five-volume set of transcripts for the McCarthy hearings of 1953-1954 were kept sealed for 50 years. They are now available online at <https://www.senate.gov/about/powers-procedures/investigations/mccarthy-and-army-mccarthy-hearings.htm>. Two prominent Greenbelters, Abraham Chasanow and Sherwood East, were among the casualties of McCarthy and his henchmen's hearings. This is the first of a two-part series about Chasanow and East.

"You say you never have heard the claim or accusation made that there is a group of Communists at Greenbelt?"

This question was put to Greenbelt resident Abraham Chasanow by the infamous Wisconsin Senator Joseph R. McCarthy at a hearing on November 3, 1953. Chasanow was a prominent Greenbelt resident at the time. He was employed by the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office for 23 years when he was suspended without pay on July 29, 1953, as a security risk because unidentified informants accused him of left-wing associations. His charges included a suspicion of associating with people who have communist tendencies, attending



PHOTO COURTESY HELEN AND ABRAHAM CHASANOW

Abraham and Helen Chasanow with actors Ray Milland and Ernest Borgnine on the set of Three Brave Men

a party where funds were raised for victims of the Spanish Civil War and for being a leader and active member of a Greenbelt radical group. He was eventually exonerated in May of 1954 and a movie, Three Brave Men, was made about his experience in 1957. In Time's May 10, 1954, article The Administration: The Greenbelt Mystery, they reported "Chasanow had 97 character affidavits supplied by friends and

associates, and ranging from admirals to the Greenbelt postman." Another Greenbelt resident was suspended from his job at the Hydrographic Office, reports the Time article, charged with criticizing the American Legion and advocating Bible-burning at a 1943 Greenbelt meeting, among other things. Time reported: "Statistics of Hydrographic Office

See **CHASANOW**, page 8

Council Addresses Various Topics At Its First Regular Meeting of 2024

by Michael Zeliff

Besides discussing how to fill its vacant seat (covered separately in the January 11 News Review), Greenbelt City Council examined and voted on several other issues during its Monday, January 8 meeting. First, Mayor Emmett Jordan requested a moment of silent reflection not only for Greenbelt residents who had died since council last met on December 11, but also for Greenbelt police officer Corporal Christine Peters, who was killed by a passing car while on duty January 2, 2021. A wreath was laid in her memory and in honor of the third anniversary of her death on Sunday, January 14 (see story on page 9).

Among those who spoke dur-



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

A sign paying tribute to Corporal Peters was dedicated on November 5, 2021. Peters was struck by a car while attending to a car crash on January 2, 2021, and died on January 14, 2021.

ing Petitions and Requests, New Deal Café Board President Michael Hartman expressed appreciation that Greenbelt has renewed its agreement to support Greenbelt Cinema during the next five years with a \$50,000 contri-

bution per annum. In return, the city and community groups will have access to Greenbelt Cinema's spaces at least four times per month for meetings.

Next, Jordan read a Martin Luther King Jr. Day Proclamation encouraging the citizens of Greenbelt to participate in projects on January 15 as part of continuing to make MLK Day a

See **COUNCIL**, page 11

What Goes On

Monday, January 22
7:30 p.m., Regular City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Tuesday, January 23
7 p.m., Special Council Meeting: Council Candidate Interviews, Municipal Building
Wednesday, January 24
7 p.m., Special Council Meeting/Closed Session: Deliberation and Selection Regarding Council Candidates, Municipal Building

See the meetings calendar on page 5 or visit greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.

A No Longer Familiar Sight: City Wakes to 4 Inches of Snow

by David E. Shapiro

Fun. Back-breaking. Dangerous. Dangerous? The first substantial snow here in a couple of years can mean all these things. Snow began to fall on Monday, January 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. By 7 a.m. on Tuesday morning, Greenbelt had accumulated 3.9 inches. Quite a few Greenbelters were inspired to take photos of peaceful or joyful snowy scenes. Children had a day off, as did librarians. Government offices and recreation activities got a late start. Greenbelt Cinema and Greenbelt Recreation put on a free snow day movie at the theater, Ice

Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs, and young residents sledged in favorite spots.

Public Works crews were out at all hours and did an exceptional job clearing our roads.

Homeowners and maintenance crews had the same task on a smaller scale but any unfamiliar and strenuous task poses risks. Some people may not be as fit as they were a few years ago to shovel snow, or even to clear it off vehicles, and some of us – including people whose bones are more fragile – may have

See **SNOW**, page 12



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Left to right, Alex Young-Wilson (5), Tae Cahalan (7), Emmeline Bedford-Dillow (7) and Thomas Powell (7) enjoy a snow day and slopes for sledding on Maplewood Court on Tuesday, January 16.

Letters to the Editor

Background on GCC Membership Levels

Last week’s Greenbelt News Review (GNR) reported on the Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative (GCC) encouraging its “subscribing” members to increase their membership capital accounts to the \$100 “voting” member level, becoming eligible to vote at membership meetings and further supporting GCC’s financial footing. Here is a historical perspective.

Two membership levels originated in GCC’s founding during the attempt to finance the store purchase. (For more about the controversy surrounding the predecessor cooperative’s divestiture, visit the News Review archives to see Virginia Beauchamp’s article in the January 5, 1984, issue.)

Jim Cassels (then GCC chairman) wrote in his March 15, 1984, GNR article: “One of the conditions the Co-op bank is imposing on GCC is that the new Co-op demonstrate community support by having a minimum ‘family enrollment’ of 1,000.” Joe Timer (then GCC treasurer), in a letter to the editor in the March 22, 1984 issue of GNR, stated: “To date some 350 have responded to GCC’s call for membership and loan capital ... more is needed.” To meet National Cooperative Bank’s requirement, the GCC founding board established (in GCC bylaws Article 2) both an affordable subscribing membership at the \$10 level and a “voting” membership at the \$100 level, later providing for easy incremental increases.

Then, as now, subscribing members were vital to GCC’s existence and maintenance. Also then, as now, the increased multiplier effects of dollars spent locally enhanced local prosperity.

GCC’s formation was a direct reaction to loss of local control. GCC’s bylaws (Article 1) explicitly limit it to “services within the city limits of Greenbelt.” A core cooperative principle, “co-

operation among cooperatives,” is embodied within GCC bylaws (Article 6), authorizing limited assistance to “other Cooperatives within the city of Greenbelt.” Our community has an interest in supporting and advising cooperatives’ directors in their (Article 3) duties, balancing actions required to keep cooperatives in “a healthy state.”

Richard M. Bates, former GCC founding board Secretary

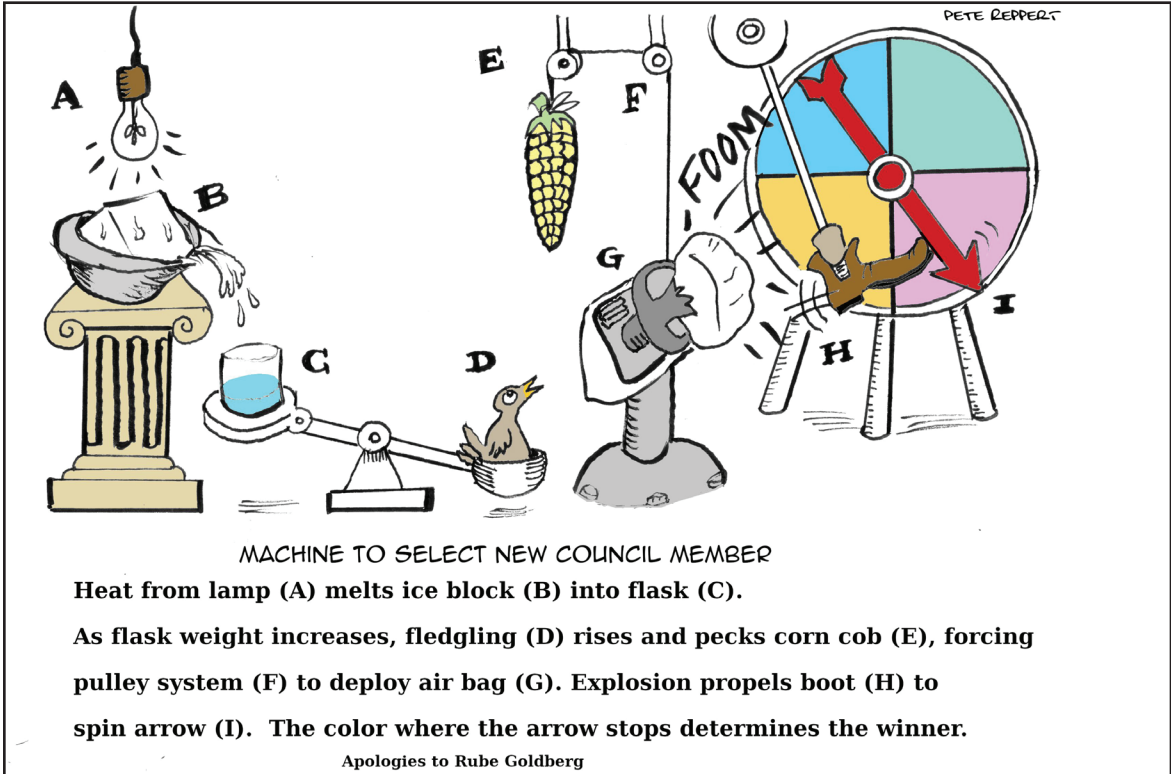
Belated Thanks

On behalf of the book sale committee (myself, Brooke Kenny, Jenifer Callahan and Lauren Schreiber), I’m writing to thank those who helped with the Greenbelt Elementary School (GES) PTA book sale held at last year’s Labor Day Festival. The book sale is the PTA’s primary fundraiser and netted \$8,000. The PTA will use this money to support the students and their teachers at GES. The book sale also facilitated the conversion of books (and DVDs, games and puzzles) from being “unwanted” to being “wanted.”

This year’s sale was different from previous years, and it almost did not happen at all. The book sale committee struggled to find a place to store and sort the books and to recruit volunteers to collect, sort and sell them. While many GES parents did volunteer, I am most grateful for the many non-parents who helped.

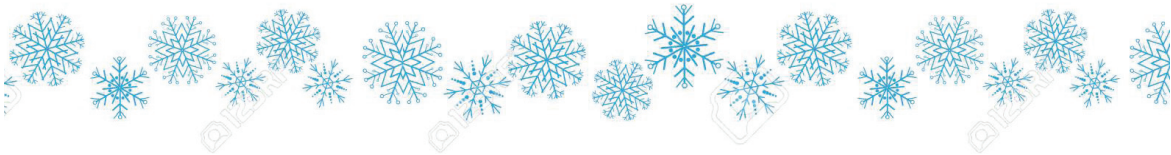
First, thanks to Mr. Kapistan and Beltway Plaza for allowing us to use a vacant space in the mall for collecting, sorting and storing books. While the location may not have been as convenient as the school, it was great to have a larger space, more hours to access the space and restaurants! Thanks to Shaymar and Sadibu of The SPACE for unlocking the gate to that vacant space many times throughout the month of August. Thanks also to Regina Bethay of LOL Stations

See **LETTERS**, page 6



MACHINE TO SELECT NEW COUNCIL MEMBER
Heat from lamp (A) melts ice block (B) into flask (C).
As flask weight increases, fledgling (D) rises and pecks corn cob (E), forcing pulley system (F) to deploy air bag (G). Explosion propels boot (H) to spin arrow (I). The color where the arrow stops determines the winner.

Apologies to Rube Goldberg



Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

The Boys in the Boat

A sports drama based on the #1 New York Times bestselling non-fiction novel written by Daniel James Brown, the film, directed by George Clooney, is about the 1936 University of Washington rowing team that competed for gold at the Summer Olympics in Berlin. This inspirational true story follows a group of underdogs at the height of the Great Depression as they are thrust into the spotlight and take on elite rivals from around the world.

Ferrari

The film is set during the summer of 1957. Behind the spectacle and danger of 1950’s Formula 1, ex-racer, Enzo Ferrari (Adam Driver), is in crisis. Bankruptcy stalks the company he and his wife, Laura (Penélope Cruz), built from nothing 10 years earlier. Their tempestuous marriage struggles with mourning for their one son. Ferrari struggles with the acknowledgement of another son. His drivers’ lust to win pushes them out to the edge. He wagers all in a roll of the dice on one race, the treacherous 1,000-mile race across Italy, the iconic Mille Miglia.

The Iron Claw

The true story of the inseparable Von Erich brothers (Zac Efron and Jeremy Allen White) who made history in the intensely competitive world of professional wrestling in the early 1980s. Through tragedy and triumph, under the shadow of their domineering father and coach, the brothers seek larger-than-life immortality on the biggest stage in sports. Said critic Mike Scott of the Times-Pacayune: “It is not a feel-good film. ... But in the sensitive hands of writer-director Sean Durkin, it is a well-told, smartly crafted story that can stake a realistic claim to being one of the more moving and compelling sports dramas in recent memory.”



Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
JANUARY 19th - 25th

The Boys in the Boat (PG-13)
(CC) (DVS) (2023) (124 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM
Sun. 2:00 PM (OC), 5:00 PM
Mon. 5:00 PM
Tues. 7:00 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 8:00 PM
Mon. 2:15 PM

Ferrari (R) (CC)
(DVS) (2023) (130 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 2:00 PM (OC)
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM
Tues. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 7:15 PM

The Iron Claw (R) (CC)
(DVS) (2023) (132 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 7:45 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:15 PM
Mon. 5:15 PM (OC)
Wed. 7:15 PM

Obituaries

Mark Blue



Mark Blue

Mark Thomas Blue, 60, of Owings Mills, died on January 2, 2024, at his home.

Mark was the devoted husband of Christy Frost-Blue. He was born March 1, 1963, in Cherry Hill, N.J., the son of Olive F. Blue and the late John A. Blue.

Mark grew up in Greenbelt and enjoyed playing sports for the city teams. The Blue family spent many years swimming for Greenbelt and other area teams year-round. Mark graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School and left for the United States Marine Corps. He served in Parris Island, S.C.; San Diego, Cal., and Okinawa, Japan, and trained in the Philippines. Post service Mark worked in construction, helping to build Greenbelt Elementary School and many houses and buildings around Maryland. Then Mark changed hats and became a chef. He was co-owner of The Blue Cow Café in Thunderhill in Columbia, Md., and worked at several area restaurants and retirement communities.

Mark was devoted to his family and loyal to his many friends. His laid-back sense of humor made him a friend to many.

Surviving in addition to his wife and mother are his daughter Shannon Blue-Fields (Amber); his bonus children Ashley Frost (Antonio Faust), Mason Frost

(Kaitlin) and Parker Frost (Raven); seven bonus grandchildren; brother Kenneth J. Blue (Dorie); and sister Lynda Blue Jackson (Bruce); in-laws Paul and Deanna Wehrman and a goddaughter Olivia Jackson. He is also survived by five nephews and four nieces.

Gathering of friends and family will be held on Friday, January 26 from 11 a.m. to noon, with a celebration of life service starting at noon at Burrier-Queen Funeral Home, 1212 West Old Liberty Road, Winfield, Md. (beside South Carroll High School). The family asks that attendees wear a Hawaiian shirt because Mark was the happiest wearing one. The funeral service will be live streamed starting at 11:50 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Canine Humane Network, 13454 Clarksville Pike, Highland, MD 20777 or online at paypal.com/paypalme/caninehumanenetwork. To share online condolences, visit Burrier-Queen.com.

The Bus

Seniors, Children with School ID
and Customers with
Disabilities **RIDE FREE**

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc

301-474-9410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Come as you are

St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704

301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for
Worship & Sunday School
at 10:00 AM

Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road

We are an
Open and Affirming
Church

**Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM
for Worship
and Church School**

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US

135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

Be Ready for the Next Storm

This winter's first snow for Greenbelt arrived on January 15. Forecasters are predicting a snowy January and February for the D.C. region. The Federal Emergency Management Agency offers the following advice to prepare for and navigate winter storms.

Create a Winter Emergency Kit: Assemble a kit containing essential supplies, including blankets, nonperishable food, water, medications and a flashlight for the home. Also keep essential supplies in the car, including food and water, a shovel, windshield scraper, blankets, tow chains and reflectors, in case of being stranded on the road.

Develop an Emergency Plan: Establish a clear and concise emergency communications plan with loved ones. Before a winter storm or drop in temperatures, check in on neighbors and friends, especially older adults or others who may have unique

needs, to help them prepare.

Stay Informed: Keep abreast of local weather forecasts and any advisories, watches or warnings.

Protect The Home: Insulate pipes, seal drafts and check heating systems. Home heating is the second leading cause of home fires, and winter is when most home fires happen, so ensure that heating sources are in good working condition.

Practice Safe Driving: If travel is necessary during adverse weather conditions, drive cautiously. It takes longer to slow down and stop on icy roads, so increase following distance from 3-4 seconds to 5-6 seconds. Keep a winter emergency kit in each vehicle and be aware of road conditions.



Sundays @ MT Hosts Game Day January 21

On Sunday, January 21 from 10 a.m. to noon, join Mishkan Torah for Sundays @ MT monthly programming with a Game Day, including mah-jongg, a movie club to discuss the film Oma and Bella, and bagels for all to enjoy. All are welcome. Visit MishkanTorah.org to RSVP.

“Search untiringly for truth and reiterate the teachings which harmonize with the crying needs of the hour.”

— ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá’í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

The Bible Says...

For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.
I will give thanks to You,
For I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.
Psalms 139:13-14

IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
(66 Ridge Rd.)

MCFcc.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

January 21 3 p.m.

Seeing Ourselves Clearly (Mission Discernment Part 2)

Rev. Ann Kadlecek with Worship Associate Jacqui Walpole

“Know Thyself.” That advice has been passed around, and debated, in various forms for millennia. What exactly are we trying to know, and why? How might we get there? Today we’ll explore self-awareness in our lives and in this congregation.

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at:
University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT MASS

Sunday 10:00 a.m.
City Council Room
25 Crescent Rd

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owner@groups.io

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org



Our condolences to the family, friends, former teammates and satisfied diners who will miss Mark Blue, who died on January 2.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE

County Celebrates Centenarians

M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County will celebrate county residents who are 100 years old and older at a special Centenarian Luncheon Celebration on May 17 at Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, 7120 Contee Road, Laurel. Up to 5 guests may attend with the centenarian.

If you know a senior resident 100 years and older who resides in Prince George's County and would like to attend, you should register by March 1 for the luncheon celebration. Visit pgparks.com/centenarian, email Seniors@pgparks.com or call 301-206-3351/3350.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, January 22, 2024 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Petitions and Requests
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations
- **Black History Month Proclamation**
* **Minutes of Council Meetings**
- **Administrative Reports**
* **Committee Reports**

LEGISLATION

OTHER BUSINESS

- FY2023 City Annual Audit Presentation
- Contract for Broadband Feasibility Study
- ARPA Status Update
- Approval of Contract for the 2024 July 4th Fireworks Display/Show
- Oil Recycling Relocation Recommendation
- M-NCPPC Special Exception Referral for LOL Childcare Station, 6250 Greenbelt Road (SPE-2022-012)
- Review of the Fine Structure for Code Enforcement
- Council Discussion on Legislation Bills and Testimony
- Approval of Agenda for Council Retreat on January 27, 2024
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
* Meetings
* Stakeholders
* Re/Appointment to Advisory Board

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 19

Friday, January 19 at 1:30 - 3:30 pm, **ETHICS COMMISSION (TENTATIVE)**

MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 22 - 26

Tuesday, January 23 at 7 pm, **SPECIAL SESSION - COUNCIL CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS**

Tuesday, January 23 at 6:30 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**, *On the Agenda: Principals' Meeting, Minutes of December Meeting, Educator Event Update, Discussion Meeting with College Park Education Committee*

Tuesday, January 23 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, *On the Agenda: Review Past Meeting Minutes, Discuss Possible Extra Tree Canopy Grant Application Period*

Wednesday, January 24 at 7 pm, **SPECIAL MEETING / CLOSED SESSION - DELIBERATION AND SELECTION**

Thursday, January 25 at 7 pm, **FOUR CITIES MEETING (COLLEGE PARK)**

Thursday, January 25 at 7 pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Science Fund Proposal Presentation, Trail Reroute from Northway Entrances, Trails: Issues Reporting and Volunteer Arrangements, FPAB Vacancy, FPAB Priorities for the Future / 2024 Calendar Review*

Saturday, January 27 at 9 am, **COUNCIL RETREAT**

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

CARES PROGRAMS FOR DEMENTIA CARE

Thursday, January 18, 7 - 8 pm - Being Your Mom's Mom. Join Loretta Woodward Vaney as she shares her significance of patience and forgiveness in caregiving while highlighting both the challenges and humorous moments of dementia.

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2579333767500676439> or call (240) 424-0302.

Thursday, February 8, 7 - 8 pm - Spiritual Care. Join us for an open discussion on Spiritual Care of People with Dementia, including information on specially adapted services we offer in collaboration with many denominations and houses of worship in our area.

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3890428816695823960> or call (240) 424-0302.

APPLICATION PERIOD REOPENED FOR CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

Due to the loss of Councilmember Ric Gordon, a seat is vacant on City Council. After discussing next steps during the **Monday, December 11, 2023, Regular Council Meeting** and during the **Monday, January 8, 2024, Regular Council Meeting** (view at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV), the Greenbelt City Council is seeking to appoint this seat to any qualified voter who meets the qualifications of a regular City election, as stated below.

Any qualified voter who is at least 18 years of age may be nominated for the office of member of council:

- Upon filing at the office of the City Clerk a nominating petition signed by not fewer than fifty (50) voters;
- A written acceptance of the nomination;
- Such other statements as may be required by this charter or by law, including an affidavit of candidate;
- Completed financial disclosure form;
- A statement of intent will be required. Please explain why you are seeking to fill the vacant council seat. One (1) page maximum.
- A résumé.

Upon the finding by the City Clerk that the nomination petition, the written acceptance, and such other statements as may be required are in order, the name of such nominee shall be authorized to be brought forth to Council for consideration of appointment to the vacant council seat.

BELOW IS THE TIMEFRAME FOR THE COUNCIL VACANCY PROCESS

Tuesday, January 9
process re-opens to obtain papers and file a nomination petition

Thursday, January 18 by 5 pm
is the last day to file a nomination petition & submit application materials

Tuesday, January 23, 7 pm
Work Session - Candidate Interviews for Council Vacancy

Wednesday, January 24, 7 pm
Special Meeting - Deliberation and Selection

A link to all forms (printable or digital) and an outline of next steps in the process can be found at www.greenbeltmd.gov/councilvacancy.

For more information, contact the City Clerk at elections@greenbeltmd.gov, or by calling (301) 474-8000.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-103(a)(1)(i) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, an administrative meeting of the Greenbelt City Council, which will be closed to the public pursuant to the administrative function exception, will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building immediately following the Special Meeting – Deliberation and Selection.

The purpose of this meeting will be for Council to discuss Candidate qualifications for an appointment to Council to fill the current vacancy.

*** The public may attend the Special Meeting prior to the closed session, and observe the vote of Council to move into its administrative meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2024.**

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

COMPOSTING PILOT PROGRAM

For 18 months, your food scraps can be collected for free to reduce food waste and return valuable compost to Greenbelt.

The Compost Crew will pick up your food scraps weekly and deliver them to their Compost Outpost at Trinity Church on Good Luck Road. Quality compost will be returned to Greenbelt for use as a soil amendment to improve Greenbelt gardens and public space lands. Composting will reduce food waste going to the landfill and lower greenhouse gas emissions coming from the landfill. Compost Crew, the City of Greenbelt, and Trinity Assembly of God worked together to obtain the funding for the pilot through a grant from the USDA.

- Open to all Greenbelt residents
- Join with close-by neighbors to help fill a 7 gallon tote for weekly pickup
- Purchase a collection tote for a one-time cost of \$20
- Residents who are seniors, have fixed or low income, or have a disability are encouraged to participate

Register with Compost Crew at <https://compostcrew.com/greenbelt/> or by using the QR code.

Questions? Email: robles@greenbeltmd.gov.



CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge this fall: Emergency Diaper Program, Family and Unpaid Caregiver Resource Fair, Alzheimer's Awareness Month Webinar Series, Coffee & Conversations, two Free Produce Distribution events, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in Older Adults webinar, Staying Strong webinar, and more.

For descriptions and information, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESprograms.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

GREENBELT SAVE OUR SENIORS GRANT PROGRAM

Are you homebound and need help with personal care?

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program, in partnership with Pickett Fences Senior Services, has been awarded a grant to provide temporary home health support, bathroom safety assessment, and equipment to residents 60+ or 50+ with a disability, who reside within incorporated Greenbelt. During this time staff will work to identify and link residents with long-term support programs.

Benefits:

- RN Assessment
- Bathroom Safety Assessment and Equipment
- Home Health Visits

Limited spots are available!

Please email Trinity Cephas, GAIL Student Intern, for more information at tcephas@greenbeltmd.gov or call the Bilingual Health Caseworker, Brendy Garcia, at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

BRING YOUR OWN BAG ORDINANCE

Effective January 1, 2024, the City of Greenbelt's Bring Your Own Bag bill aims to reduce single-use plastic bag waste and litter in our local waterways and tributary system.

The Bring Your Own Bag bill will prohibit a retail establishment from providing a plastic carryout bag to shoppers and can charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag provided to a customer at the point of sale.

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOBag.



Trial of Accused in Teacher’s Murder Scheduled for March

by Cathie Meetre

In August 2023, the search for Mariame Touré Sylla was intense – involving many community members as well as the staff and students of Greenbelt’s Dora Kennedy French Immersion school, where she was a teacher. She had disappeared while out walking near Schrom Hills Park on the evening of Saturday, July 29. On August 1, a dismembered body was found in a park on Old Alexandria Ferry Road in Clinton but not identified as hers until a month later.

A tip from an observant witness on August 1 that he had seen a white pickup truck dumping something suspicious in the park led police to a body and the witness gave them a tag number for the vehicle. Investigation revealed that the vehicle’s owner had already been arrested later on August 1 on unrelated charges associated with a domestic violence incident and was in custody.

Harold Francis Landon III of University Park has been incarcerated since that time and awaits trial. There are two trials scheduled. The first is scheduled for Monday, January 29 and in-

volves robbery and assault felony charges plus misdemeanors including trespass associated with the domestic violence incident on July 29, 2023, for which he was initially apprehended on August 1.

The second case, where he is accused of the murder of Mme. Sylla, is now scheduled to go to trial on March 19, though the process has been subject to numerous postponements and could be further delayed. Landon is represented by a public defender in both cases.

To follow the court’s process and scheduling, go to the Maryland CaseSearch website at casesearch.courts.state.md.us/casesearch and enter Landon’s name to see multiple criminal cases associated with him: the two cases listed as open are those described above. Detailed entries on the cases, accessed by clicking on the case numbers, focus on court scheduling information and identify the designated judge and prosecution and defense attorneys but do not detail the charges or evidence.

Letters, continued

for accommodating us and helping us move the books out.

Special thanks to Brett for repairing one of our tents to like-new functionality and to Anne, Melissa and Christine for teaching us how to properly box the books. Also thanks to past PTA parents Amy, Bobby, George, Eric, Owen, Lloyd and Jay; and to non-past parents who just wanted to contribute to a great Greenbelt tradition: J, Kristen, Jenni, Raymond and Sieglinde. Apologies to those whom I omitted by mistake.

Big thanks to The SPACE, Friends of Greenbelt Library and the Lions Clubs of Greenbelt and Bowie for taking away the items that were not bought. It was a huge relief to have this annual question answered prior to the Festival.

Finally, thanks to those who adjusted to the different book collection setup and brought books and other items for us to sell.

Alex Barnes
GES PTA parent member

Fixes Needed For Council Elections

The tragic loss of Councilmember Ric Gordon has highlighted problems in Greenbelt’s charter that need to be fixed. These fixes would respond to legitimate complaints about the lack of representation on city council and would reduce areas of friction between council and the public.

- 1) The process for filling empty council seats should be specified clearly, with a timeline and process for citizen input.
- 2) The loss of Franklin Park’s first-ever councilmember has raised demands that Gordon’s replacement live there along with other complaints about unequal geographic representation now and in the past resulting from Greenbelt’s at-large voting system. The obvious way to ensure

such geographic representation is to create wards or “single-member districts,” so that areas of Greenbelt would have their own councilmembers. Other problems with at-large voting include an unfair advantage for incumbents, lower voter turn-out and discrimination against people of color. In 2008 Greenbelt was targeted by the NAACP, ACLU and the U.S. DOJ for having an all-white council despite Blacks comprising 38 percent of the population. Greenbelt responded by adding two seats, which happened to result in the election of council’s first Black councilmember (Emmett Jordan) but did not solve the problem.

3) Our mayor is selected not directly by voters but by councilmembers, who rely on the tradition of choosing the member elected with the most votes. The duties of mayor are unique – as chair of council meetings and as spokesperson for the city – and require that voters choose the appropriate person for that job, as is the common practice elsewhere.

4) Ranked-choice voting – where voters rank candidates from most- to least-preferred – should also be considered as a way to help voters elect the candidates they indeed prefer.

Susan Harris, Mark Cheater
Editor’s note: While Ric Gordon was the first councilmember from Franklin Park, former Greenbelt mayor Gil Weidenfeld lived in the apartment complex, then named Springhill Lake, when he was first elected to council in 1971.

Thanks, Neighbors!
To the angels who cleared the snow off the pathways and cars of family, friends and neighbors (especially at 2 Court Gardenway!): Thank you! It was much needed and deeply appreciated.
Michael Hartman

Local Author Lauren Silberman Publishes First Book of Fiction

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Lauren Silberman has lived in Greenbelt for 13 years. She and her husband moved to Plateau Place in the fall of 2010. Author of several works of historical nonfiction, Silberman celebrates the publication of her first work of fiction this fall, a cozy mystery called *Crime and Parchment*, published under her pen name Daphne Silver.

“Like a lot of people, I’ve always written,” says Silberman. She wrote as a child, sometimes stories filling a couple of pages and sometimes whole notebooks. Most of her childhood writing was fantasy. She wrote a story about time travel called, *Walking Through The Attic of Time*, in third grade. As a child, she lived outside Memphis, Tenn. Raised by New Yorkers, she always knew she’d leave to go to college, which is what first brought her to the D.C. area. She majored in painting and art history at George Washington University and minored in creative writing.

Before graduating from George Washington, Silberman had already started working for the Jewish Museum of Maryland. That’s when, in her early 20s, she became interested in mysteries. The museum is home to the oldest synagogue in the State of Maryland, built in 1845, and she found herself wondering what could have happened there. She was interested in the history and archaeology and was trying to write about it but couldn’t quite make her story work, despite taking classes. Then Arcadia Publishing reached out to the museum and asked if they wanted to do a book, *Jewish Community of Baltimore*. Published in 2008, it was largely a collection of historic photos of the Jewish community of Baltimore, which Silberman authored.

History Books

After that Silberman was interested in writing another history book, one with a more narrative focus. She was working in Washington, D.C., for the American Alliance of Museums, and missing Baltimore when she learned about the *Wicked Cities* series. They had various books,



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Lauren Silberman in her home office on Plateau Place with her new novel, *Crime and Parchment*

like *Wicked Boston*, but none on Baltimore. She reached out to History Press.

“I may not be a sports person,” says Silberman, “but even the NFL team is the Ravens, which embraces Edgar Allen Poe and this darker side of its history.” Silberman’s *Wicked Baltimore: Charm City Sin and Scandal* came out in 2011. She incorporates stories of Edgar Allen Poe, riots and prohibition, and some of the nicknames of Baltimore, like “mob town.” Silberman said she didn’t want to get farther than prohibition, preferring wicked history to the potential airing of dirty laundry that could come with delving into recent politics and characters.

A couple of years later, at a Kensington Book Festival, Silberman ran into another History Press author who had written *Wild Women of Washington, D.C.* The author said she wasn’t interested in writing one about Maryland, but Silberman was. So, she spent a year researching wicked women of the state. “There are some well-known stories, like Harriet Tubman and Wallis Simpson, but the ones I find most interesting are the lesser-known tales: people like Virginia Hall, who was a spy during World War II. “Boy we have a lot of spies – it’s fantas-

tic!” Silberman told the *News Review*. Another favorite is *Lady Law*, Violet Hill Whyte, the first African American police officer of either sex in Baltimore City – and stories about witch trials in Maryland. “Not everyone is exactly a role model,” though, she says, “there are also some more dangerous dames.” You can even find a few Greenbelt photos – an early Greenbelt housewife and a mother and child in the grocery store.

Wild Women of Maryland came out in 2015 and the next year Silberman had her son, Nathaniel. She pretty much stopped writing, finding little time and energy for anything beyond raising a child and working a full-time job. A few years later, she had a conversation with her cousin-in-law who was working full-time and raising two children as a newly single parent – and she was writing. Silberman was inspired as her own child was entering kindergarten and becoming more self-sufficient. “So I went back to my first love, which was writing fiction,” she says.

First Fiction Book

“Finding creativity within limitation can be a very powerful thing,” says Silberman of enjoying the genre expectations and constraints of cozy mysteries. Not everything has to be a tome that will be up for book national awards – it’s OK to have fun and write something you enjoy writing about and reading. Thus *Crime and Parchment* was born. It was a story that had been marinating for a decade, which she’d tried to start and had stopped and started again, but

See **AUTHOR**, page 11

New Greenbelt Listing



29B Ridge Road
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Kim Kash
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TENANTS continued from page 1

of code citations by the city, exploring receivership (already requested of the Prince George’s County State’s Attorney) and tenant actions, including rent escrow cases and civil suits.

Code Enforcement

Salmerón and Community Development Director Terri Hruby described over 87 violations, submitted to Maryland District Court beginning in November 2023. The first court case, Maryland vs. Charlestowne North Holding Company LLC, will be tried on January 17. Tenants may testify. Salmerón, Hruby and City Inspector Gilberto Cabrera said the judge could double fines and authorize the city to make repairs at owner cost. Repairs by the city would require city funds, followed by repayment liens on the owner. Salmerón and Cabrera said the city will make repair decisions carefully, considering resident impact and urgency, since the cost and extent of repairs are unpredictable.

Hruby assured tenants that the city will not renew the rental license until all violations are addressed, and noted unlicensed landlords cannot collect rent. Meanwhile, tenants should continue reporting building issues to help build evidence.

Shell Company Ownership

Maryland property records list the owner as Charlestowne North Holding Company LLC, recently identified as connected to Weiss Property Group, which both have the same New York address, as does Livingo (Charlestowne North’s property management company, represented at the meeting by employee Ginger Reid). Hruby said the city contacted the Weiss Property Group owner on January 12. New Jersey courts, according to local reporting, recently foreclosed a Weiss-owned, Livingo-managed apartment building.

Potential Receivership

Salmerón is in contact with the lender in case of foreclosure actions, because the owner’s mortgage is delinquent. He reassured tenants concerned about receivership, explaining that a court-assigned receiver could operate the property until the current owner or a new owner is operating legally.

Call for AG Action

To residents calling for action by Maryland Attorney General (AG) Anthony Brown, Salmerón explained they must first file a consumer complaint, without which the AG cannot discuss any investigation. Cabrera emphasized that the AG has authority that the city does not for tenant challenges such as billing complaints.

Tenants reported difficulty individually completing the complex AG complaint form. Resident Wanda Darden proposed submitting one form with multiple signatures. State Delegate Ashanti Martinez said city, county and state governments “are working to move this forward.”

Tenant Rights

Since the rental license expired August 31, 2023, tenants need not pay rent or fear eviction, advised Attorney Miriam Rhoden of Community Legal Services of Prince George’s County. Rhoden said tenants may create



PHOTO COURTESY WANDA DARDEN

A rusted-through laundry drain pipe, photographed in September 2023

court rent escrow accounts, which usually require issues affecting health, safety or well-being in their own units. Tenants argued that building-wide issues (mold, unlocked building doors and an uncertified elevator) affect all residents. Rhoden also advised residents to keep receipts for repairs or damages. When asked about civil or class-action suits, Rhoden recommended they consult the Maryland Court Help Centers.

Austin Asahtong of CASA of Maryland suggested forming a tenant union. CASA plans another meeting with interested tenants.

Tenant Robin Houston suggested purchasing the building for affordable housing and senior housing in Greenbelt.

City Committed

Salmerón said, “The city will exercise all authority we have. We will harass whoever we have to harass.” Many residents said they appreciated the official efforts; others were skeptical or unsure.

Resident Kyle Peterson said he’s “flabbergasted to hear you say you’re on our side,” given the unimproved conditions. Salmerón reiterated the city’s focus on restoring the building without making tenants – who tell him they love the building and want to stay – vacate. Condemning the building, he said, is “good for no one, especially residents.” Tenant Hannah Gould acknowledged that “it’s a process.”

Without maintenance contractors, another tenant asked about elderly residents falling in the event of snow and ice. Rhoden said injured tenants may sue the landlord, but naturally, residents want safety.

Gould, who found the meeting helpful, was glad to hear of city, county and state legal actions. She said, “Whatever we do as individuals really adds to the strength of a case against the landlord,” so she supports continuing to document violations and submitting an AG complaint, and believes a tenant association will provide a stronger voice. She said she chooses to remain optimistic.

CONTACTS FROM THE MEETING

Community Legal Services of Prince George’s County

Located in Greenbelt, provides advice clinics, direct representation and pro bono representation in civil law
<https://www.clspgc.org/>
Greenbelt appointments available on Mondays and Friday mornings. Call 240-391-6370.

Maryland Courts Help Centers

Free legal help in civil cases for individuals without a lawyer. Tenants and non-business landlords may receive free advice, but not representation. Phone: 410-260-1392, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m. In person: 14735 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. Bourne Wing, Room 069B Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
<https://www.mdcourts.gov/helpcenter>
<https://www.mdcourts.gov/legalhelp/housing>

Maryland District Court

4990 Rhode Island Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20781
Maryland District Court Help Centers
Help with civil district court cases, including landlord/tenant cases:
<https://mdcourts.gov/helpcenter/inperson/dc>

Prince George’s County Bar Association

<https://www.pgcbba.com/public-resources/pro-bono-services/>

CASA of Maryland

<https://wearecasa.org>

Austin Asahtong,
aasahtong@wearecasa.org,
240-797-8757

Ashanti Martinez, state delegate
ashanti.martinez@state.house.md.us, 301-910-7208 (texts recommended)

Gilberto Cabrera, city code inspector
gcabrera@greenbeltnmd.gov,
240-542-2045

Josué Salmerón, city manager
jsalmeron@greenbeltnmd.gov,
240-542-2024

Is It Summer Yet? Outdoor Pool Readies Its New Filter

by Susan Taylor

Greenbelt Public Works and the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center (GAFC) staff have been working through the spring, summer, fall and now winter to install a new filtration system for the outdoor pool. Patrons of all ages will be swimming clean and clear in summer 2024.

Stephen Parks, the center’s supervisor, is looking forward to the new mechanics. “It’s basically the same style as the indoor pool filter,” thus making maintenance easier for staff, says Parks.

Purchased using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the filter has been in the GAFC basement awaiting installation since March 2023. It’s been a multistage process. The initial phase of the project, completed before the outdoor pool opened for summer 2023, involved repairing the damage to interior and exterior retaining walls and the construction of a new deck (see the April 20, 2023, issue of the News Review). Leaks had damaged the retaining walls causing extensive damage to the filter systems and other equipment. Preparing and securing the new filter’s work space were critical.

The walls and decking were repaired by June 2023, and the outdoor pool limped through one final summer season with the old filter.

In late December 2023 Public Works staff dismantled the old filter and moved the new filter out of basement storage onto the basketball court that adjoins the lower mechanical areas of the

GAFC. A rigging company was hired, due to the weight and size of the filter, to lift it into place.

Public Works staff continue to replace electrical panels and secure equipment that needed to be moved for last year’s repairs. Plumbing and installation work are expected to be completed by mid-spring 2024.

Swimstyle Pool and Spa in Upper Marlboro has been contracted to install the new filter system. Kenny Gray of Swimstyle is leading the project. He’s familiar with the mechanical maze under the pool, as Gray was the very first aquatic coordinator at GAFC from 1991 to 2002.

Gray has deep Greenbelt connections through a decade of daily interactions with Greenbelt residents, and more. Then-Governor Parris Glendening recognized Gray in 1999 for co-developing an alternative system for cleaning the pool during that summer’s drought, thereby saving over 200,000 gallons of water (see the December 2, 1999, issue of the News Review). A volunteer firefighter at the time, Gray was delighted to run into several regular GAFC patrons as fellow volunteers for Hurricane Katrina relief in New Orleans in 2005.

It may be hard to imagine in snowy, wet and windy January, but after all of the planning and work, GAFC staff and Greenbelt residents can look forward to a splash-filled summer of clean, clear and mechanically effective hot weather fun.



PHOTO BY STEPHEN PARKS

Public Works staff move the new filter into place.





Merrily We Roll Along

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by George Furth

Directed by Roy Hammond • Music Direction by Joe Biddle
Choreography by Rikki “Howie” Lacewell • Produced by Malca Giblin

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com



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CHASANOW continued from page 1

security cases showed a disturbing fact: the office had 13 employees who lived in Greenbelt. Five of them had been suspended as security risks. All the suspended men, but none of the others, were Jewish. (Greenbelt is about 8% Jewish). In Greenbelt, where most of the residents are government workers, the suspensions cast a pall of fear and dismay.”

On September 1, 1954, Assistant Secretary of the Navy James Smith apologized to Chasanow and reinstated him as an employee, saying that a great injustice had been done by the informants who had accused him and that the hearing board had found him to be “an above average loyal American citizen.”

The Red Scare

McCarthy was a junior senator from Wisconsin who in 1950 claimed to possess lists of card-carrying Communists employed by the federal government. In the early 1950s Americans were repeatedly told by their leaders to be fearful of subversive Communist influences in their lives. Communists could be lurking anywhere and this paranoia about the internal threat posed by Communism was called the Red Scare. McCarthy, a right-wing Republican, used this paranoia to persecute and ostracize citizens. As chairman of the Senate Permanent Investigation Subcommittee, he held hearings to weed out Communist infiltrators, sympathizers and associates based on rumor and innuendo leading to a nationwide general fear of the “Communist menace.” This resulted in the destruction of many lives and careers of liberal-leaning persons. Lead Counsel Roy Cohn (a friend and mentor to Donald Trump) was a close associate of McCarthy and conducted the questioning when the senator did not assume that role.

Greenbelt residents came under special scrutiny as left-leaning because the city was built by President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal and promoted cooperativism, community engagement and free thinking with lively debate. The Greenbelt Cooperator wrote on April 22, 1954, “... for those who live here [the implication] is that Greenbelt is a hotbed of left-wing radicals or worse. Newcomers may be wondering if they have unwittingly settled in a nest of subversives.” The author is not aware of any Greenbelt



Front page article on the Chasanow case in the April 22, 1954 issue of the Greenbelt Cooperator

resident ever being found to have been disloyal to our country, while many worked night and day to support the World War II war effort.

Transcripts

Selected excerpts from the hearings

CHAIRMAN: “Is it general knowledge at Greenbelt that there is a small group of Communists out there?”

CHASANOW: “No, sir.”

CHAIRMAN: “You say you never have heard the claim or accusation made that there is a group of Communists at Greenbelt?”

CHASANOW: “No, sir, I do not recall it.”

CHAIRMAN: “We are dealing with a very important matter. We have the testimony of any number of witnesses that there is an espionage ring working within our Signal Corps laboratories. If that is true, it means this country is in considerable danger; it means the Russians have our top most secrets concerning our radar, our radar changes and electrical equipment, almost everything. You have been handling that secret material in one branch of the government. You have had security clearance. You have been living where a great number of witnesses tell us there are hard core Communist organizations and I just wonder if you yourself could shed any light about that. You are not here as a defendant. You are here to be of help to the

committee and try to give us information.”

CHASANOW:

“I want to be of as much help as I can. Honestly, Senator, if there has been that, they have certainly steered clear of me. They have not said anything in my presence. I know personally no one who ever said anything in my presence to indicate he was a Communist.”

Cohn would question individuals during the hearings and could be heard on the transcripts asking Chasanow about his employment and the grounds for his suspension. Cohn grilled Chasanow about who his friends and associates were, his attendance at a party in Greenbelt to raise money for a Spanish aid group. Chasanow admitted to subscribing to In Fact, what Cohn called “a Communist newsletter.” Chasanow said he had subscribed for one year, saying, “... it was a cheap little newspaper and after reading it I found that I did not agree with what they said and I threw it in the wastebasket.” (In Fact was a weekly newsletter attacking corporate malfeasance, the FBI and the cigarette industry; see wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Seldes).

Sherrod East

McCarthy was not, in fact, after Chasanow at the 1953 closed-door hearing. The purpose of that hearing was to tarnish an Army employee, former Greenbelt resident Sherrod East, by connecting him with the discredited Chasanow. Both Chasanow and East had been active in many Greenbelt organizations and had served on boards and committees together. They were both involved in organizing the cooperative that purchased most of the city’s original housing when the

federal government sold Greenbelt in 1953.

McCarthy’s Fall

The atmosphere that these hearings bred was permeated by fear and distrust, threatening civic engagement. One might think twice before expressing an opinion or stay away from public activities to not be accused of associating with the “wrong people.” McCarthy’s fall from grace began in 1954 when he turned his investigations against members of Eisenhower’s administration. Administration officials began to discredit McCarthy and the men around him such as Cohn, who was known to use threats and intimidation against his perceived enemies. McCarthy’s credibility was shredded and the Senate passed a motion to condemn him, in December of 1954.

Impact on Greenbelt

The fallout from this period in our history had a profound impact on families in Greenbelt. “My father, Howard Kash, was cleared at his loyalty hearing, but was made to understand he should not expect further promotions. So, he gave up his career with the federal government. Abe Chasanow took Dad under his wing, gave him a job at his company, Greenbelt Realty, and taught him the real estate business. He probably saved our family,” wrote Greenbelt resident Lesley Kash to the News Review. She added, “Livelihoods and reputations during the Red Scare hung on passive-voice accusations as smugly vague as associating with people suspected of having Communistic tendencies.”

New Deal Café, Co-op Grocery To Continue Relationship into 2025

by Kim Kash

After extensive discussions, the Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative (also known as the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy) and the New Deal Café have agreed to extend their relationship until January 31, 2025. Their boards have approved minor but necessary changes to the contract negotiated between the two organizations.

“The new agreement assures that the New Deal Café will continue providing entertainment and food and beverage services to its members as well as the Greenbelt community and beyond,” said New Deal Café President Michael Hartman.

“The Co-op is pleased to be able to continue this relationship,” said Bill Jones, chair of the Co-op’s board of directors. “The fact that food services at

the New Deal Café have generated a small profit during the last six months was a key consideration in Co-op’s decision.”

Co-op General Manager and New Deal Café Manager Dan Gillotte said he is “glad to be able to continue this relationship and demonstrate the positives of Co-op Principle 6: “Cooperation (and collaboration) among cooperatives.” Gillotte further thanked the Co-op and New Deal members and patrons for their continued strong support of both operations.





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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred January 8 - 14, 2024. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reported two deaths, two domestics (one involving child protective services), one mental health diversion involving a suicide attempt, and two reports of sexual assault. One juvenile missing person case was resolved.

Robberies

On January 8 at 4:17 p.m. near 6200 Springhill Court, a man walking to his vehicle was attacked and robbed by four suspects.

On January 10 at 4:48 a.m. near 7900 Good Luck Road, two men came into the store wearing ski masks and told everyone to get on the ground. They broke into the ATM and fled.

On January 10 at 11:02 a.m. near 9300 Edmonston Road, a man tried to steal a vehicle while the driver was making a delivery.

On January 12 at 5:47 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Frankfort Drive, a boy was robbed of his Jordan sneakers by three men.

On January 13 at 9:24 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman was approached by two men in the rear parking lot near the church area; they displayed handguns and took the woman's cell phone.

On January 14 at 10:33 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a maintenance worker was robbed by four teen-aged boys who jumped out of a small gray-colored sedan. One of the boys held a knife to the victim's chest and was handed the victim's wallet. As the boys drove away, the man noticed the back glass of their vehicle was completely broken out.

Assault

On January 11 at 10:48 a.m. near Craddock Road and Megan Lane, two vehicles were involved in a road rage incident, leading to a fight resulting in minor scrapes and scratches. A passenger in one of the vehicles was arrested on an open warrant for second-degree assault. On January 12 at 9:39 a.m. near 9100 Edmonston Court, two roommates assaulted each other during an argument. A weapon was present but not utilized in the crime, and no injuries resulted.

Break-in

On January 10 at 2:27 a.m. near 7400 Greenbelt Road, the front door of a store was broken and several items were taken.

Neighbor Complaint

On January 9 at 8:29 p.m. near 7800 Mandan Road, a neighbor shouted and threatened another neighbor.

Road Rage

On January 12 at 10:39 p.m. near 5700 Cherrywood Lane, a driver honked his horn at a man

to gain his attention; the driver claimed to be a police officer and said that next time, the man would get a ticket. The driver never displayed credentials and was not a police officer.

Suspicious Vehicle

On January 11 at 11:38 a.m. near 9100 Edmonston Terrace, while a man was changing his tire, a dark gray sedan slowly drove by twice. Then, two men wearing masks walked past him and appeared to be concealing something inside their jackets. The man fled on foot.

DUI Arrests

On January 10 at 4:57 p.m. near 8000 Mandan Road, an intoxicated driver struck a parked vehicle and fled the scene. Officers located the man and his vehicle, and arrested him for DUI.

On January 11 at 12:36 a.m. near Crescent Road and Parkway, a running vehicle was stopped in the middle of the road, with the driver passed out behind the wheel. The driver was arrested for DUI.

On January 12 at 2:50 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a witness saw a vehicle strike another vehicle and then park near Game Stop; the driver was intoxicated and was placed under arrest.

On January 14 at 8:28 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Cherrywood Lane, an officer stopped a vehicle for driving without tags; the driver was intoxicated and arrested for DUI.

Fraud

On January 11 at 2:54 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, an employee was contacted by an unknown person who stated the store owed a debt. The caller advised that the debt could be paid through Bitcoin at two locations close by. They gathered the money and deposited it in a Bitcoin machine.

Theft

On January 8 at 3:09 p.m. near 7400 Greenbelt Road, the store manager observed an employee stealing.

On January 9 at 6:14 p.m. near 5500 Stream Bank Lane, a package was stolen. The Ring camera recorded a person approaching the door and stealing the package.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

On January 8 at 11:28 a.m. near 7700 Hanover Parkway, a gray 2017 Honda Accord (Md. 3CX9077) was left running while the owner was making a delivery, and stolen by a young man. On January 10 near 6400 Ivy Lane, a 2018 blue Kia Soul rental car (Fla. 55BKSA) was stolen. On January 11 near 7400 Greenway Center Drive, a black 2019

Hyundai Elantra (Md. 2DY2935) was stolen from the shopping center parking lot. On January 14 near 6000 Cherrywood Court, a white 2023 Toyota Highlander (Md. Temp. T1648662) was stolen.

Theft from Auto

On January 8 near 7200 Hanover Drive, the wheels were stolen from a 2021 Honda Accord. On January 9 near 6700 Springshire Way, an EZ Pass was stolen. On January 11 near 7600 Mandan Road, an airbag was stolen from a Honda Accord. On January 12 near 7200 Hanover Parkway, a man was seen opening the car door and stealing the disability placard; the thief fled on foot. On January 11 near 7601 Mandan Road, someone tried to steal an airbag.

Vandalism to Auto

On January 12 near 7800 Walker Drive, vehicle windows were broken. On January 12 near 6800 Damsel Court, a window was broken on a work truck. On January 12 near Prince James Way and Lakecrest Drive, a truck had windows and the rear lock broken, but nothing stolen.

Remembering Greenbelt Officer Corporal Peters Three Years On

On Sunday, January 14, Greenbelt Police officers, friends, supporters and members of Greenbelt City Council gathered at the roadside sign dedicated to Greenbelt Officer Corporal Christine Peters. The group picked up litter near the memorial sign on Kenilworth Avenue/Route 201, north of Cherrywood Lane. They laid flowers to commemorate the officer on the third anniversary of her death.

Peters served with the

Greenbelt Police Department for 22 years, during which time she was recognized for her exceptional work and commitment to the community. She died due to injuries sustained while performing her duties, said the police department. Sunday marked three years since the officer died from injuries sustained when she was struck by a vehicle on Edmonston Road while assisting United States Park Police at the scene of a crash.



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

Police, community members and councilmembers gathered to commemorate Corporal Christine Peters on the third anniversary of her death.

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BOXED: \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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COUNCIL continued from page 1

national day of voluntary service that was created through federal legislation in 1994. Information about various local projects was published in the January 11 News Review.

During Administrative Reports, Councilmember Danielle McKinney praised the city for using social media channels to advertise its job openings and crime prevention videos. City Manager Josué Salmerón added that one online platform (greenbeltmd.gov/government/city-administration/human-resources/current-job-openings) now handles the entire process from recruitment to hiring. Council also returned briefly to problems retaining crossing guards at Greenbelt’s public schools. Pay has increased from \$12 to \$17 per hour to attract more applicants. At present, county police are helping to fill this need when necessary.

Discussion of the standing rules for council meetings focused mainly on the time allotted to speakers during Petitions and Requests (P&R). Whereas speakers during other times in meetings receive three minutes to express their views, councilmembers agreed that P&R presentations can require more time and, so, approved the motion to increase this time granted each speaker to five minutes. Resident Xavier Courouble supported this change in explaining that English is not his first language and the extra time will be helpful. In addition, Hartman brought to attention in the standing rules document an example of gender-specific language. Upon an online search, Councilmember Kristen Weaver discovered two to three more instances of this, all of which were corrected and approved by council.

Council also approved the purchase of three vehicles, two of which are electric and receive \$7,500 government reimbursements that staffs at Recreation and Planning each will use. Councilmembers along with Brian Townsend, Public Works assistant director for parks, discussed potential savings from lower operat-

ing costs versus the higher costs of infrastructure improvements needed for recharging stations. About the third vehicle, a 2024 Ford F-550 box truck that will cost \$115,275 and be used for hauling trash and compost, Councilmember Rodney Roberts asked why Public Works is replacing its current Ford F-550, which has only 85K miles on it and needs frequent repairs, with the same model if this current version has proven to be inadequate. Roberts told about a hauling company he knows that has used the same truck for 40 years, so why buy another bad truck that is in addition gas powered? Greenbelt resident Bill Orleans noted that hydrogen-powered utility trucks are now becoming available, and Leon Schachter questioned the whole premise of making these big purchases at this time of growing state budget deficits. Roberts agreed with the latter, whereas Councilmember Silke Pope supported the purchases as proposed. In subsequent votes, council voted unanimously to buy the two EVs and split on the new F-550, with Roberts opposing the purchase.

Finally, council approved spending \$120,563 received from the county for street improvements in Greenbelt to be made from Breezewood Drive to Market Street. To Weaver asking if this project is pedestrian friendly, Public Works Assistant Director Brian Kim answered, “not this time,” meaning, for example, that this proposal does not include adding sidewalks. With regard to the contract, Kim assured councilmembers that the county insists on fair wages and that the winning contractor, VMP, comes from a list of diversified companies and submits very competitive bids. McKinney expressed safety concerns regarding children who attend nearby Greenbelt Middle School and Pope, a former teacher there, wondered if the work might be completed during the school’s spring break in late March. Kim responded that the construction crew will include traffic control monitors.



AUTHOR continued from page 6

this time a first draft came out in about six weeks. It’s about a rare books librarian, “who finds books and bodies where they don’t belong,” says Silberman. It’s set in a fictional Chesapeake Bayside town in Maryland. Published in November, the story is already also an audiobook and Silberman is now working on more in the series.

Cozy Mystery

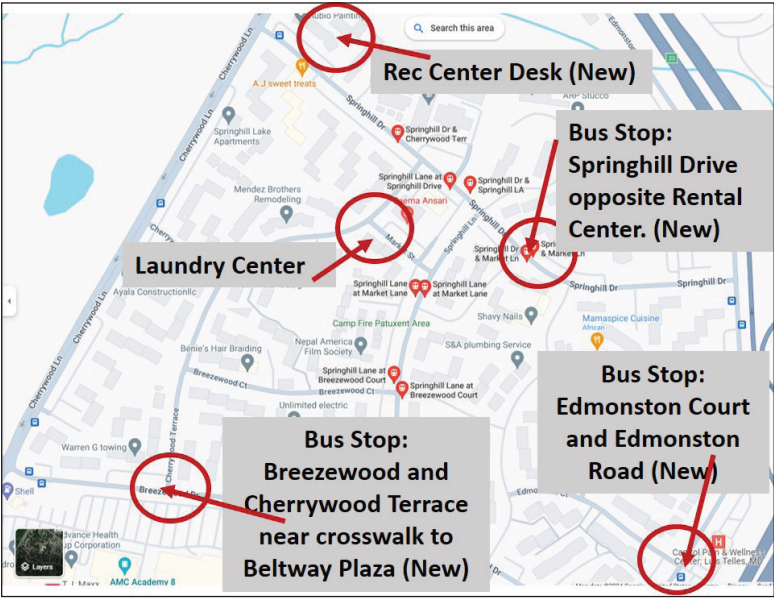
What is a cozy mystery? Think Murder She Wrote, says Silberman. They typically take place in a small community with eccentric characters, in an ideal location like seaside or mountains, and have something that brings a strong sense of community, “much like we have here in Greenbelt,” she notes. The central character is an amateur sleuth, most often a woman. “I think that for a lot of people, cozy mysteries are very much about an escape. You get to try on this fantasy occupation, you get to go live vicariously in this neat community with a bunch of ec-

centric folks. There is a murder, maybe more than one.” It’s very Agatha Christie, Miss Marple and it’s a lot of fun, says Silberman. The genre is also being revitalized by authors bringing in different cultures and backgrounds to their stories, Silberman notes. Mia Manansala won the Agatha Award in 2022 for Arsenic and Adobo, about a Filipina café. Raquel Reyes infuses the subgenre with Caribbean culture and food. There’s often a lot of food in this mystery subgenre, explains Silberman. In Crime and Parchment, she brings in her Jewish heritage through food, too. Her main character, Juniper, like Silberman, can’t bake, but Juniper’s sister makes her nana’s recipes.

Silberman has finished the first draft of the second book in her cozy series and is partway through the third book. She likes to write in short bursts, which suits the spaces left around a full-time job and motherhood. In fact, she prefers half-hour-to-hour segments rather than long

News Review Beefs Up Boxes For Franklin Park’s Readers

by Cathie Meetre



New and existing sources of the News Review in Franklin Park

With some justice, Franklin Park residents have noted that print copies of the News Review often aren’t easily available to them due to a lack of physical outlets in the development. They feel this contributes to the city’s inability to effectively reach Franklin Park’s significant segment of the city’s population.

This lack of effective dissemination of information was frequently mentioned as a crucial element during the recent controversy over applications for the open council seat.

Five On-site Locations

In response, this week the News Review has added three newspaper boxes to Franklin Park plus one additional indoor drop. Within the complex, there are now three outside boxes at bus stops and two indoor locations where residents can get the physical newspaper. There are additional outlets nearby in places likely to be traversed by residents, including Giant Food, two additional Beltway Plaza locations and a box at Greenbelt Metro Station.

Looking Ahead

The News Review would certainly consider once again deliv-

ering to each Franklin Park hallway (as it did for many years), if permitted by Franklin Park management to do so. This would be in addition to the current electronic delivery strategy in which an email is sent to Franklin Park management from the newspaper every Thursday containing a short rundown on the news and a link to the digital paper. Management then forwards the letter to Franklin Park renters.

The News Review hopes that Franklin Park’s residents will take advantage of this increased availability to tune into the city. News Review staff will be monitoring uptake of newspapers from the new locations.

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A Review

Merrily We Roll Along Is Now On Stage at the Arts Center

by Melanie Iversen

Merrily We Roll Along. ... Finally. And worth the wait!

This interesting play has been on and off Broadway for many years. It has survived highs and lows, revisions and repeats. The story is timeless and timely so it is not surprising that it drew the attention of our Greenbelt artists. Many hours of work and sweat went into the project and before the curtain could open here, Covid came unmerrily along and the project was quarantined like most of us. Ugh.

Excitement and joyful anticipation were clear by the full lobby and animated conversations among friends before the show I attended.

The ability to transform a cozy community theater space to accommodate a Broadway play/musical was accomplished with huge success. The band was tucked in as well, so we were able to enjoy live music along with the Sondheim musical brilliance.

The storyline of following the lives of a cache of friends in reverse time reflected familiar paths to many of us. Seeing the end result of growing and climbing and reaching for success became more interesting as we went back through the years. The story opened in 1981 and closed in 1957 and volleyed between California and New York, but the actual years and locations were props for the stories of ourselves

that we experienced through the actors in each Act. I left wishing we could all step away and look at ourselves, and I wondered if we may have made different choices if we knew ourselves then as we are now.

The choreography made the most of every inch of the stage and blended well with the music. We were able to follow the story through the music and choreography. The dialog linked the stories' details between the musical performances.

Seeing the actors/characters up close, as community theater offers, was especially nice because the players were completely and comfortably settled into their individualities.

This play leaves us with wistful wondering. I enjoyed and



Charley Kringas (Daniel Fleming), Mary Flynn (Pamela Northrup) and Franklin Shepard (Todd Zachwieja) in Merrily We Roll Along at the Greenbelt Arts Center

PHOTO BY KRIS NORTHRUP

remain in awe at the brilliance of our local thespians.

There are three more chances to see the play: Thursday, Friday and Saturday (January 18-20) at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Greenbelt Arts Center or online at greenbeltartscenter.org.



The cast and ensemble rehearse for Merrily We Roll Along with Music Director Joe Biddle.

PHOTO BY WES DENNIS



Christmas rose

PHOTO BY DITTE MOINNES



A fun, snowy landscape behind Greenbelt Elementary School on Tuesday, January 16

PHOTO BY CORITA WATERS

SNOW continued from page 1

forgotten how to walk safely on snow and ice, or have lost some of their physical ability. Driving in snowy or icy conditions can pose an even greater danger. Not only do drivers rely on their own skill and judgment, they are also at the mercy of others who may not realize the risks wintry roads can pose.

Greenbelters surely enjoyed the sight and smell of our first measurable snowfall in a long time, and those in shape for it enjoyed the sports it offered. With more snow likely for this winter, remember to exercise the judgment that this now-unfamiliar experience demands and, as always, look out for your neighbors.



Snow falls on the mother and child statue on Monday evening.

PHOTO BY CLAUDE AUBERT



Greenbelt Lake Tuesday morning, with almost 4 inches of snow accumulated

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW



A bright calm night after the first snow

PHOTO BY CAMILA LUCHSINGER



Emilia Loo plays in the snow during the first winter storm of the season.

PHOTO BY KEN LOO



Snow chicken

PHOTO BY BARBARA BUJANES